

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-22 are pending and subject to an appeal filed February 7, 2003 from a Final Rejection dated November 8, 2002. Applicant's Appeal Brief (accompanied by a one month extension of time) is being filed on this date, addressed separately to Mail Stop Appeal Brief—Patents.

The amendments above place the claims in better condition for appeal because they obviate the possibility that the Board of Appeals and Interferences may need to invoke 37 CFR § 1.196(b) to institute a new grounds of rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the terms "file directory information" or "file directory contents" are now used consistently in the four independent claims (1, 6, 10, and 13), instead of the terms "directory file information" or "file directory content"; also, proper use of the definite article "the" has been applied. This should avoid possible objections for lack of antecedent basis or similar indefiniteness issues. No other claims have been amended.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



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May 7, 2003

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GP:1457032 v1

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MAY 07 2003

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